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FILE ONLY

## A Russian Editor Is Missing From a Munich Radio Studio

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BONN, March 3 — The Soviet-born acting chief editor of Radio Liberty, an American-financed station that broadcasts to the Soviet Union, has been missing for a week, according to officials at the station in Munich.

The editor, Oleg Tumanov, 42 years old, has been missing since last Tuesday after having left work the previous day complaining that he felt unwell, according to the station.

"He is gone and has been gone since last week," said Nicholas Vaslef, station director. "For all we know he is sunning himself in Italy. It is certainly an unauthorized absence."

There has been speculation that Mr. Tumanov, who reportedly had a number of debts, had re-defected.

A sailor in the Soviet Navy, he jumped ship in the Mediterranean and swam six miles to Libya in 1965, according to Bill Mahoney, a station spokesman. As a deserter, he was sentenced to death in absentia. After a stay in Britain, he joined the Munich station in 1966. He was divorced from his English wife, who has custody of their daughter.

Friends at Radio Liberty said a woman friend, Tamara Poljanskaya, had been unaware of his disappearance and, when told of it on Thursday, regarded it as a joke. Mr. Tumanov was said to have emptied his bank account.

Victor Gregoriy, the station's deputy director, said: "He was very well balanced. He was a very quiet and reserved man."

Another staff member said, "It is a classic case of blackmail. The man was in debt, and he defected with his money and his fancy neckties." He speculated that if Mr. Tumanov had re-defected, the Soviet Union might attempt to exploit his knowledge of the station.

As acting chief editor, Mr. Tumanov organized programs and checked them before they were broadcast to the

Soviet Union. Several colleagues spoke highly of the quality of his work.

Officials at the station said the Munich police had been informed of Mr. Tumanov's disappearance, but had found no trace of him.

Radio Liberty and its sister station, Radio Free Europe, which broadcasts to Eastern Europe, are financed by the Congress and overseen by the Board for International Broadcasting in Washington.

Richard Cummings, head of security at the stations, said there had been "less than a half dozen" cases of re-defections. The 1,700 staff members at the two stations are mostly émigrés.